

**PANELED**  
23 NOV 1959

JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

ARMY-NAVY-CIA

(Published and Disseminated by CIA/PIC)

SUBJECT : Craters Possibly Indicating  
Missile Malfunctions

BRIEF NO: PIC/JB-19/59

LOCATION: Tyura Tam Missile Test Range

DATE: 10 Nov 59

PHOTO DATA:



MAP DATA: US Air Target Chart, Series 200, 0246-13A

REMARKS :

Four crater-like depressions possibly indicative of missile malfunctions have been identified on the [REDACTED] of the Tyura Tam Range Head in a down-range direction from Launch Area "A". One of these craters was present on the [REDACTED] and if in fact resulting from a missile malfunction, indicates that missiles were being launched from Tyura Tam prior to [REDACTED]. None of the craters show evidence of burn scar. The accompanying drawing shows the locations and azimuths of the craters with respect to the launching structure at Launch Area "A".

The crater present in [REDACTED] approximately 60 feet in diameter, is located about 4 nm from the launching structure on an approximate azimuth of [REDACTED]. It is reached by a trail which leads out to it from the launch area and appears to have been made solely to reach the crater. The crater has a precise circular pattern and is ringed by a low earth lip. This is suggestive of digging, which could have obliterated evidence of any explosion which may have occurred here. Both the appearance of the crater and the existence of the trail are indicative of activities of a salvage party.

Two craters 30 and 35 feet in diameter and 175 feet apart are located approximately 3.5 nm from the launching structure on an azimuth of about [REDACTED]. A trail, which branches from the trail to the crater discussed

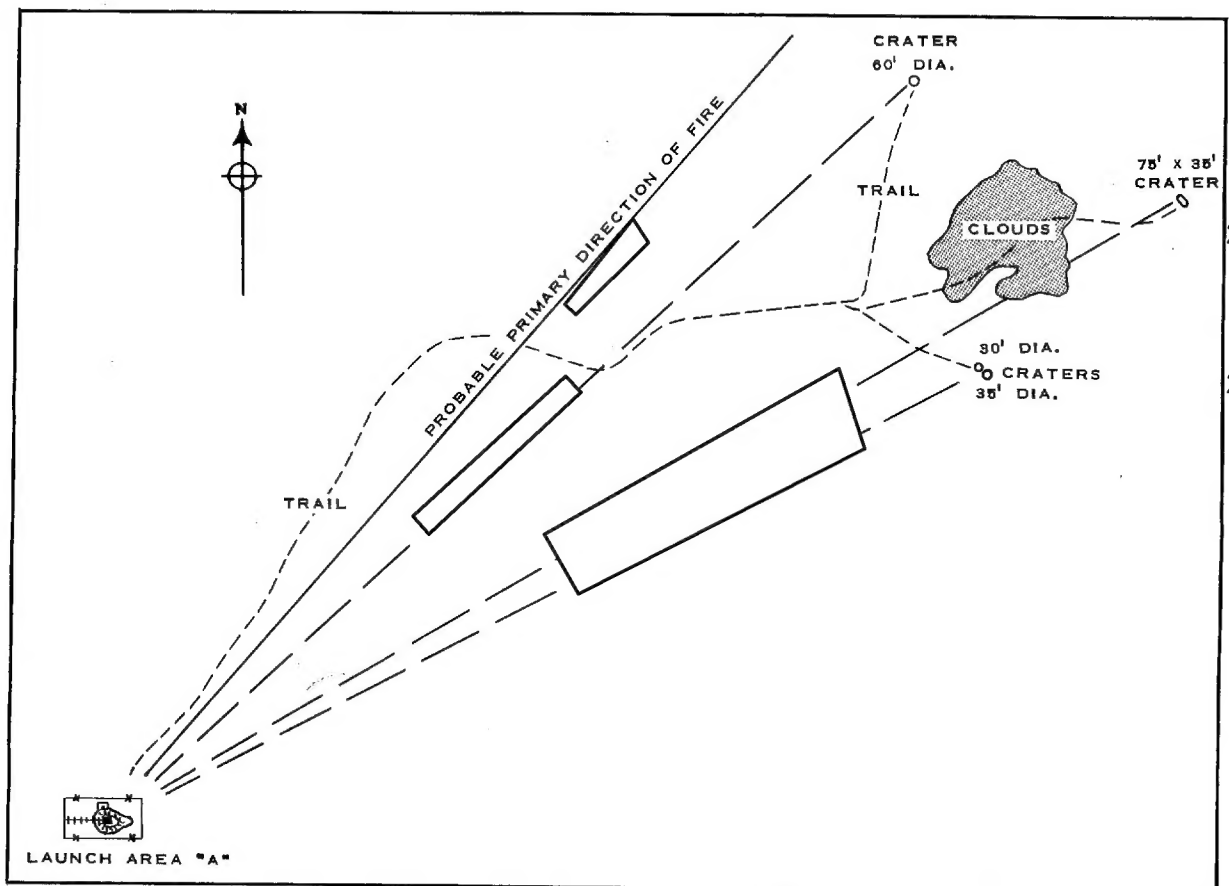
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above, terminates in the general vicinity of these craters. Around the 35-foot crater earth has been thrown out radially as if by an explosion. As with the 60-foot-diameter crater, a low earth lip circling each crater is apparent, indicating possible salvage operations.

The fourth crater is an irregularly-shaped depression approximately 75 by 35 feet, possibly caused by two overlapping craters. It is located about 4.5 nm from the launching structure and on an approximate azimuth of 60 degrees. Salvage operations are also evident at this crater. Cloud cover precludes determining the precise alignment of a part of a trail leading to this crater.



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